

Zonta International
District 4
Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT TO BOARD

DATE: May 25, 2015

COMMITTEE: UNITED NATIONS

HIGHLIGHTS: Attended 59th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women – Implementing the Beijing Platform for Action – March 9-13 with approximately 70 Zontians. <http://www.zonta.org/ZontaEvents/CSW59.aspx>

Leslie Wright, ZI UN Chair, provided an UN orientation on Saturday. Those of us with UN passes (20), had to plan our schedule based on

- 450 Side events sponsored by governments and agencies
- 200+ Parallel events organized by NGOs for NOGs

After attending the CSW Forum at the Apollo Theatre on March 8 some of us joined the largest IWD March for Gender Equality and Women's Rights ever, organized by UN Women in collaboration with the City of New York, the UN Women for Peace Association, NGO-CSW, the Working Group on Girls and the Man Up Campaign.

Key Takeaway: Soon Young Yoon, Chair NGO Status of Women indicated Challenges Structure, Inter-generationality

- Feminist movement must partner with others.
- Equality must be cross cutting gender vs a sexual issue.

Throughout the week speakers often referred to Hilary Clinton's statement that Women's Rights are Human Rights. Also heard a number of presentations regarding "Engaging Men & Boys" and that there is overwhelming evidence that

- Equality is not gender but a family / society / nation issue
- Don't empower women by disempowering Men

Going forward, CSW is developing goals to achieve Planet 50-50 by 2030.

CHALLENGES: How to share the experience and lessons learned ... April Newsletter touched on some highlights. Attached is additional info re Zonta's role in the UN and Engaging Men and Boys for your review. Would be pleased to share CSW experience at Club meetings and will present at the District Conference.

OTHER: Attending Zonta NAIDM in Minneapolis in June.

Respectfully submitted:

Doreen Myers

59th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women – Implementing the Beijing Platform for Action – March 9-20

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Core Work of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

Zonta is part of the Women's Major Group and NGO Major group. (NGO=Non Governmental Organization) Our goal is to make sure the women's agenda is being met. We need to ensure that gender equality is one of the main elements of the sustainable development goals.

Zonta's Role:

Zonta has General Consultative Status at the UN, which is the highest status achievable for an NGO! This is very **IMPORTANT**. This status puts us in a unique position to be able to make comments at the sessions of the commission, and participate in additional ways, giving us a voice for gender equality. **Zonta works with ECOSOC, the Economic and Social Council, one of the 6 organs of the CSW.**

ECOSOC has 3 levels of status with membership at three levels:

- Roster Status - 985 NGO's - observation
- Special Status-- 3033 NGO's - limited participation
- **General Status**-- only 146 NGO's highest status, with the ability to comment and participate in additional ways. Zonta is a member of this group!

I was one of the Zontians who had a pass to attend events at the UN. What an amazing experience! We attended events with high profile speakers such as Julia Roberts, Melinda Gates and Hilary Clinton; Networked with government representatives and other Women's organizations and were recognized directly by our partner UNICEF for our contribution to the difference Zonta has made.

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Engaging Men & Boys: I attended a number of sessions and learned what other countries doing in this regard.

Slovenia - 230K Men & Boys signed up for gender equality He for She Campaign
Do You Hear Slovesna ... focus police & medical ; Father marathons with children
Need more men with guts to stand with women vs against them

Austria: Advocate Gender Equality Plan;

- All mgrs. Participate in EEO workshops; discussed how to change attitudes;
- Daddy campaign ... increase male parental leave

UK: First Men Standing Newsletter <http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2013/mar/08/international-womens-day-voice-london>

opportunity for men everywhere to be the first in their family, sports club or workplace to stand up and speak out about building strong relationships and ending violence against women. We ask men to do three things:

1. respect all women and demonstrate love and support for the women and children in their own lives
2. challenge other men by speaking out to their friends and colleagues about ending violence and negative attitudes towards women
3. make a personal pledge never to commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women.

Canada: Black Daddies Club ... to discuss parenting issues, as well as issues facing the Black community as a whole.

Philippines: MOVE Men Opposed to Violence Against Women ... government agencies

- Awareness re gender roles
- Marriage licence .. couple counselling responsibilities fathers
- Reproductive health ... males must attend
- Rehab ... perpetrators of violence

South Africa: He for She advocate ... Fatherhood program
Paradigm shift way think do ...

Marketing Awareness

- Partnership celebrities
- Young people don't watch mass media ... watch own programs
- Education – how stereotypes become prejudice

A number of presenters referred to the “He For She Campaign” 3As

1. AWARENESS, EDUCATION & SENSITIZATION

HeForShe aims to enable men to identify with the issues of gender equality and to recognize the crucial role that they can play to end the global persisting inequality faced by women and girls, both in their own lives, and at more structural levels in their communities. Through sensitization, HeForShe challenges men to address gender equality as a human right, and as a social and economic imperative, the achievement of which will benefit both men and women.

The engagement of men is facilitated through a comprehensive approach to awareness and sensitization using online and offline tools.

2. ADVOCACY, IMPACT THROUGH POLICY & PROGRAMMING

Advocacy supports UN Women's policy and programming agenda by engaging men and boys in the achievement of its strategic objectives: Women's Economic Empowerment; Ending Violence Against Women; Governance and Leadership; and Peace and Security (see Annex 1).

3. ACTION FUNDRAISING & OTHER ACTIONS

The HeForShe action platform facilitates various levels of engagement through:

MULTI-LINGUAL ACTION KITS:

ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORKS:

The 'Impact 10x10x10' pilot programme is guided by engagement frameworks for government, corporate and university participation as outlined below in section 3.2.

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION:

The HeForShe fundraising efforts contribute to the delivery of UN Women's programmatic work globally. Tactics include innovative cause marketing initiatives, online/individual giving via HeForShe.org and corporate sponsorship

Points to Ponder: The “He for She” and “White Ribbon” campaigns are potentially resources for Zonta to Engage Men and Boys as part of the Say No to Violence Against Women program.